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Sir Alec DOUGLAS-HOME
(Phonetic: DUGlas-HUME)

UNITED KINGDOM

Secretary of State
for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

(b) (3)

Addressed as:
Mr. Secretary

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAY 2007

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, 68, became Foreign Secretary in June 1970. He is one of the most prestigious and respected political leaders in Britain today. He served as Prime Minister during 1963-64, following an earlier tour as Foreign Secretary from 1960 to 1963. On becoming Prime Minister, Sir Alec gave up his peerages, including the ancient earldom of Home, and won election to the House of Commons.

As Prime Minister, Sir Alec displayed dedication and dignity. After the Tories lost the general election in 1964, however, there was a persistent belief that his background and image were electoral liabilities; he resigned the party leadership in 1965. Since then, his loyalty to Edward Heath, his continuing efforts for the party, and his integrity and other personal attributes have won him the distinction of being the party's most admired contemporary statesman. Sir Alec has traveled widely and has maintained contact with world leaders.

Sir Alec has charm, wit and an unusual gift for simple and direct communication. He is a knowledgeable naturalist, a skilled marksman and an avid fisherman. In 1936 he married Elizabeth Hester Alington, daughter of a former headmaster of his old school, Eton; they have one son and three daughters.

June 1972

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